

the telecommunication network in the rural areas is also being increased.

Laying of Fibre Optical Cables

7314. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places, state-wise, that are currently served by fibre optic cables;

(b) the names of places that are proposed to be connected by fibre optic cables over the next 5 years;

(c) the criteria used to identify places for being served by fiber optic cables;

(d) whether a simultaneous increase in other communications services are planned along with the laying of these cables; and

(e) the average cost of laying a 1 km. long cables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) the places currently served by fibre optic cable links are indicated in Statement-A. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1037/90]

(b) The list of schemes showing places to be linked by fibre optic cables over the next 5 years is given in statement-B [Placed in the Library. See NO. LT-1037/90]

(c) Optical fibre medium of communication is generally preferred when a large number and there is also need for provided between the places and there is also need for dropping circuits at various stations falling enroute. Use of optical fibre cable is particularly advantageous in areas having severe power-induction problems.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Average cost of laying a 1 K.M. long cable (excluding the cost of duct) is as follows:

— Soft soil Rs. 24,000/-.

— Rocky soil Rs. 40,000/-

Development in Telecom in Metropolitan Units

7315. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has declared a dividend of Rs. 84 crores for the year 1988-89, the third year in succession;

(b) the manner in which this dividend amount is likely to be utilised for the development of telecommunications in the two metropolitan cities of Bombay and Delhi or otherwise; and

(c) the rationale for revising the Telephone tariff recently inspite of profits being made by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All available resources are pooled and annual development plans are prepared and implemented covering not only local exchanges but also Long Distance Switching and Transmission network and ancillary systems and administrative buildings and staff quarters. It is not possible to relate a particular item of receipt to development expenditure of a particular type or its application to a particular place or places.

(c)

1. While telecom services in large

cities generate surplus, the Department has to expand the services in rural and backward areas where the income is comparatively less.

2. The increase in tariff became necessary to neutralise the increase in operational and maintenance expenditure and to generate funds to expand and improve the services.

Smoking in DTC Buses

7316. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether commuters in DTC buses are put to great inconvenience due to smoking of cigarettes and bidis by certain commuters and especially the crew members; and

(b) if so, the strict action proposed to be taken against the erring conductors/drivers etc. and enforce responsibility on the Conductors to ensure that there is no smoking in DTC/DTC operated private buses?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN): (a) Instance of such nature have been noticed.

(b) DTC have issued instructions to the effect that neither the crew while on the bus should smoke themselves nor allow any passenger to smoke inside the buses. In case of passenger insists on smoking the conductor has instructions to stop the bus till the passenger either stops smoking or leaves the bus. On receipt of specific complaints or reports strict action is taken against the crew who smoke themselves and do not take action to stop smoking by passengers. As per the agreement entered into between private operators and the DTC it is obligatory

on the part of the private operators to abide by the statutory provisions prohibiting the crew and the passengers from smoking.

Development of Fisheries in Orissa

7317. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of proposals from the Orissa Government for Development of brackish-water Prawn farming, Inland Fisheries Development and Reservoir Fisheries Development with World Bank and Central assistance during last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals and action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). Government of India have been collecting some information on reservoir fisheries and brackishwater prawn farming in Orissa, in order to explore the possibilities of seeking World Bank assistance for future development of Reservoir Fisheries and Brackishwater Prawn Farming in the State.

Installation of Trunk Auto Exchanges and Manual Trunk Boards

7318. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements made under the long Distance Switching system since 1985-86 in the country especially in the matter of installation of Trunk Auto Exchanges with TAX capacity and Manual Trunk Boards;

(b) the places where TAXs have been